



NORTH CHANNEL YACHT CLUB  
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## Issue Briefing Note<sup>1</sup>

To: NCYC MC

From: Leighton T. Roslyn, Vice-Commodore

Date: 2020-03-15

Re: Work Party Fees for Members over 80 Years of Age [Amended to 2020-09-29]

1. **THE ISSUE:**

- a. Should Full Members who are over 80 years of age be excused from Work Party fees?
- b. If so, under terms and conditions should apply and what process should be adopted?

2. **HISTORY & DISCUSSION:**

- a. As members age, infirmities may make it difficult, if not impossible for a member to provide the required number of Work Party hours to the club.
- b. Such members are then required to pay fees in lieu of working hours and financial constraints in retirement years may result in hardship and may in extreme cases cause them to terminate or restrict membership despite the fact that they would prefer to remain Full Members and continue sailing at the club.
- c. Article 9.1.7 of the By-laws may be used by the MC to waive such fees at its discretion.
- d. Article 9.1.7 provides as follows:  
*“9.1.7 The Management Committee has discretion to waive in whole or in part the fees or levies payable by a member on compassionate grounds. If the Management Committee declines to waive a fee for a member, such decision is final and not subject to appeal to the membership at a meeting of members.”*
- e. There is a similar provision in Schedule A Fee Provision section 1.9.11
- f. At the 2017 AGM, the MC was encouraged to use this provision to allow long term members who have given 15 years or more of service to the Club and who have reached 80 years of age to be exempted from future work party fees. See AGM 2017 Minutes item 6 i) c)
- g. The MC has used these provisions to give relief however:
  - i. some members have not appreciated having to request such relief as it was embarrassing to them and was not respecting of their privacy concerning their personal health;
  - ii. some members feel that fairness requires that such relief be given to all such senior members;
  - iii. some members objected that automatic granting of such relief was insulting as it implied that they were not capable of working the required hours;

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<sup>1</sup> C:\Documents\Sailing\0NCYC\0 Management Committee\2020\2020-03-17\2020-03-15 Briefing Note Re Over 80 Work Party Fees.Docx

- iv. others feel that leaving this to the discretion of the MC results in extra work for the MC and may result in perceived arbitrary or uneven exercise of the discretion.
- h. For all these reasons, it has been suggested that a specific amendment to the By-laws should be adopted by the general membership so that the issues do not keep coming up at MC meetings.

### 3. PROPOSED RESOLUTION:

- a. That the NCYC By-laws be amended by adding to Schedule A Fee Provisions a new section 1.6.13 as follows:

*1.6.13 1.6.13. Notwithstanding any other provision, members who have reached 80 years of age at any point in the Membership Year and who have been Full Members for at least 15 years are, upon written request delivered to the Treasurer before the end of the membership year, automatically entitled to have Work Party Fees reduced or eliminated for the next membership year. i.e. they are not required to contribute work party hours although they are encouraged to do so if able and they are not charged a work party fee for not contributing work party hours [amended 2020-09-29].*

- b. That the MC adopts the forgoing provision for application during the 2019/2020 Membership Year subject to ratification at the Spring Planning Meeting or the Annual General Meeting.
- c. Transition: With respect to those Members who would have been eligible under the proposed new provision had it been in force during the 2018/2019 Membership a Year and who have been assessed a Work Party fee as a result of not contributing work party hours during that year, the MC exercises its discretion under section 1.9.11 of Schedule A and Article 1.6.13 of the By-laws as follows:
  - i. Such Members are not required to pay the Work Party fees charged in the invoices issued earlier this year;
  - ii. If such Members have paid such Work Party fees, they are entitled have such reimbursed to them upon written request by them to the Treasurer.
- d. Alternate Provision: [amendment addition per MC Minutes 2020-06-16]
  - i. It has been suggested that originally the MC had discussed that the intent was that members with 30 years of service and work hours be recognized as an active member by waiving the mandatory work hours automatically. They are still free to contribute hours, but are not invoiced for hours if they are unable or choose not to.